ANZUNS President’s Report for AGM 2017

Well, the time is finally here to say farewell to the ANZUNS Executive. After 2 years in this role, I must say I have had a lot of ups and downs, but overall I have had a ball! It has been very difficult to dedicate the time that is required to do the role justice whilst working in my current role full time, however I can honestly say that I have done my best and will continue to support our incoming President, Andrea Nixon, in any way that I can, as past president.

As I reflect over my time as President I can summarise some key achievements for ANZUNS:

• Significant inroads into the review of our joint USANZ/ANZUNS Conference Agreement and for the first time since its inception, USANZ has agreed to a more collaborative partnership with ANZUNS and recognition of Urology Nurses as partners in a patient’s care. I hope we keep making progress with this into the future.

• We struggled to come up with the funds to get some projects off the ground – namely our Clinical Care Guidelines and Urological Standards. This work continues to be a priority for us to develop and Andrea Nixon is making inroads in that department. I hope that with the help of USANZ in assisting/endorsing our applications for grants to be able to complete this work, we will finally be able to achieve it.

• We have secured sponsorship of $40,000 from Astellas for the development of a web-based communication forum for our Prostate Cancer Nurses. We will be placing an ad out in the near future for the right person to manage this page on our website. This money will be spent on development and maintenance of this page. Ongoing sponsorship beyond the 12 months of the grant will depend on its use and usefulness to members.

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• We secured annual sponsorship of our newsletters and have been working at producing a better-looking newsletter with relevant content that has meaning for all ANZUNS members at every level of their career.

• Boston Scientific sponsored our Diamond Professional Development Award and Abbvie sponsored our Emerald Professional Development Awards for two years in a row. This year ANZUNS sponsored our ANZUNS Conference Awards by sponsoring four nurses to attend the meeting: Kay Talbot, Helen Crowe, Rachael Oxford and Tina Forshaw. Congratulations to the four members who took the time to put in their one page grant applications.

• ANZUNS became a member of Alliance Continence Exchange (ACE). As a member of ACE we can upload any continence resources we have and have access to any resources available on their database.

• ANZUNS hosted an inaugural nursing Day at the Societe Internationale D’Urologie (SIU) in Melbourne, followed by a second one last year in Buenos Aires, convened kindly, and very ably, by Kay Talbot with fantastic feedback.

• We were able to obtain valuable input from members via our annual membership survey, which drives our committee’s work on behalf of our organisation. Our next survey will be out in the near future to give us feedback and input for our midterm meeting discussions and strategic planning in July.

• We have reviewed our various forms and committee documents and now have an international membership form we can use for overseas urology nurses who wish to join or society.

We have much more work to do, including what we need to do to take ANZUNS into the world of the WWW. The incoming committee will continue to work on this to move our society forward.

In bowing out I wish to thank our outgoing committee:

Leanne Morton
as database controller
(but staying on as QLD State Rep).

Lesley Roberts
as Treasurer

Pene Meiklejohn
as New Zealand State Rep

Kath Schubach
as Victorian State Rep
(but staying on as ANZUP Rep, Public Secretary and for putting in a nomination for Vice President)

For those who are staying on:

Andrea Nixon
as incoming President

Kath Schubach
Michelle Roberts
as Secretary and website co-ordinator

Jemma Archbold
as NSW Rep

Jane Neve
as WA Rep

Sally Sara
as SA Rep and also CoNNMO Rep

Leanne Morton
as QLD State Rep

And new members:

Kelly Beer
VIC State Rep.

Trish White
as NZ Rep.

I thank you, actually ANZUNS thanks you, as without your valuable time and contributions, we cannot survive as a society.

I wish to extend a huge thanks to our conference Convenors, Kath Schubach and Carla D’Amico. You ladies have put together a fantastic program that is both informative and enjoyable. I have enjoyed every session so far and I am looking forward to relaxing a little more until Monday night and enjoying the rest of it. I hope you have both enjoyed your time on the Conference Committee and, speaking from experience here, there is a lot of work in doing this but it is rewarding and enjoyable work and there is nothing like watching something this big come to fruition and you should both be very proud of what you have achieved.

I wish to introduce Kay Talbot as our next Conference Convenor and Sarah Mann as our Scientific Convenor and look forward to seeing their program come together next year. I want to finish by thanking all sponsors of ANZUNS and the work that we do. In this market of very tight fund availability, I think we have done very well for securing sponsorship for our various programs and that is directly attributed to the relationships we have built with these companies over the years. I encourage you to please visit their stands and thank them for their valuable support.

Thanks everyone

Maryanne Sinon
ANZUNS PRESIDENT 2015 - 2017
I was elected to the position of President of our society in Canberra at the ANZUNS AGM, on Saturday 25th February. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as there are many of you, particularly in Australia, whom I have not as yet met.

My name is Andrea Nixon and I live in Whangarei, which is the largest city in the far north of New Zealand. It is an area well known for its sub-tropical climate and diverse natural beauty that includes a mixture of white-sand beaches, huge sand dunes, forests of giant Kauri trees, picturesque islands and world class fishing and diving. We are also the cultural capital of New Zealand with our historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Northland is an area that my husband, Tony, and I have come to love since moving here with our three children in 1997, not only for its natural beauty but for the warm and caring community in which we live. Shortly after arriving Tony went into private practice as a urologist and as we were new to the area I took on what was then, a very part-time role, as his practice nurse.

Within five years we had negotiated a contract with the local District Health Board to provide all public urology outpatient services to the people of Northland. This enables us to offer a service which is focused on providing a high level of clinical care to our patients be they public or private. Our service covers both the rural and urban population of one of the largest geographical areas of New Zealand with 33% of its population being Maori, who sadly have some of the poorest health statistics in the country. Our service includes new patient and follow up consultations along with procedures such as flow tests, prostate biopsies, flexible cystoscopies, urodynamics and vasectomies. During this time my role has developed along with the practice and we are, this year, celebrating twenty years in practice. I joined the New Zealand Urological Nurses Society soon after starting in my new role as a urology nurse as I had much to learn and decided to avail myself of every learning opportunity there was on offer. I joined the NZUNS committee in 2009 and have held the position of Chairperson since 2013 when we held our national conference here in Northland at the beautiful resort town of Paihia. This conference was the first combined meeting with our urologist colleagues (USANZ-NZ Section). The signing of our Memorandum of Understanding with them in Dunedin last year, which now enables us all to work in a truly collaborative and multidisciplinary way, has been one of the highlights of my time as NZUNS Chairperson.

Along with my appointment as the ANZUNS President I will also continue to hold my position as chairperson for NZUNS until our AGM in October. This dual role is only possible because of the support and stability of the great team I have working alongside me on in both NZUNS and ANZUNS committees.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both the returning and new members onto our 2017 ANZUNS committee.

Kath Schubach
Vice-President/Public Officer/ANZUP Representative
Maryanne Sinon
Immediate Past-President
Michelle Roberts
Secretary/Webmaster
Jane Neve
Treasurer/Newsletter Editor
Leanne Morton
Queensland Representative/Database Coordinator
Sally Sara
South Australia/CoNNMO representative
Jemma Archibald
New South Wales Representative

Trish White
New Zealand Representative
Francesca Leggott
Western Australia Representative
Kelly Beer
Victoria Representative

In addition we welcome our ANZUNS 2018 ASM Convenor Kay Talbot and Sarah Mann, as the Scientific Program Convenor, to this year’s committee.

You will see reports in this newsletter from us all keeping you up to date with the exciting things we are doing not only on a regional level but also with in ANZUNS, such as the development of our Memorandum of Understanding with USANZ, our ongoing work towards our Standards of Practice for Urological Nurses, along with educational opportunities and grants that are available to you. This also gives you a point of contact if you are looking for information on anything pertaining to urology, looking at perhaps running a study day yourself or just have an enquiry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kath Schubach and Carla D’Amico for the excellent 2017 ANZUNS ASM which I attended in Canberra. The conference program was well structured with the combined plenary sessions and forums along with keynote and quest speakers that came from a wide variety of backgrounds and shared a wealth of expertise.

One of the highlights of every ASM is the Harry Harris Oration and this year was no exception with Elizabeth Cosson giving the address titled Leading with Grit and Grace. What a remarkable career Liz has had since she enlisted in the Australian Army in 1979, becoming the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Major General in 2007. She gave a fascinating history of women in the armed forces along with highlights from her own stellar career which included some of those inevitable “tough calls” where grit and determination was required. On a personal
I couldn’t believe it when Liz took the stage – that very afternoon I had visited the Australian War Memorial, which would be one of the best war museums I have seen, and who should be the volunteer guide for the children’s afternoon tour – Liz Cosson. I had stood and listened to her for some time and was struck then, as were the children who sat spell bound, by her knowledge and enthusiasm, not for war, but the role that people play in shaping our history.

The conference breakfast symposia that I attended was titled “Women in Urology”, where we not only looked at how far we have come since the first woman entered the urology training scheme but talked of the importance of us all being united in our support of all women in our field. As Liz also had alluded to, we are sadly so often the hardest critics of our own gender.

One of the excellent quest speakers in the nursing program was Suzanne Wallis, a Rural Sexual Health Nurse Practitioner and Forensic Nurse Examiner for adult victims of sexual assault. Suzanne was gentle and quietly spoken but with a great passion for her work and the people she comes into contact with and she certainly left me encouraged to make changes in my own interactions.

Every town and city in New Zealand, and I am sure Australia as well, needs a Suzanne.

Professor Mei Krishnasamy, who is Chair in Cancer Nursing at the University of Melbourne and Nursing Research and Education Lead for the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Center was another excellent speaker reminding us that we are “Not Just Nurses”, discussing the complexities of our roles with a focus on improving patient experiences and health care outcomes.

It was great able to attend the combined plenary sessions and hear the latest trends and treatments from world experts. We were fortunate to share some of those speakers in the nursing program such as Dr Curtis Nickel, from Canada, who gave a really informative talk on the psychosocial impact of urologic chronic pelvic pain and the implications of it’s management along with Dr Victor Nitti, from New York, who is a world leader in female urogenital medicine and surgery who discussed who on/when to perform urodynamics.

We were inspired by our own nursing colleagues with the work they do and the changes they have made to improve patient care and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their valuable contribution to the conference. A special congratulations to our award winners: Stu Wilder – Best Paper, Cara Webb – Best Poster, Nicholas Howard – First Time Presenter and David Gray – Most Innovative Paper. The BARD nurse’s dinner is always a great opportunity to get together socially and the National War Memorial was the perfect setting for Kay Talbot’s wonderful talk on the history of Australian nursing and the development of our society. We are once again indebted to BARD for their ongoing support. Networking with fellow urology nurses is absolutely invaluable and you make great friendships along the way.

I know it is a constant challenge to balance work, family and life commitments however I cannot urge you enough to make every effort to attend at least one of these worthwhile conferences. To assist you, take advantage of one of the many scholarships and grants available through ANZUNS. You won’t regret it.

Do remember though to take time out to enjoy those very special people in your lives, as they do bring us the greatest joy.

Andrea Nixon
ANZUNS PRESIDENT 2017 - 2019
NZUNS CHAIRPERSON 2017
anzunspresident16@gmail.com
ais.nixon@xtra.co.nz
Representative Reports

VUNS

General Statement:
VUNS executive committee continue to work hard to support all our members. We have launched a new website which is user friendly and looks very professional.


VUNS continues to support the Victorian and Tasmanian Urology nurses with education and sponsorship for professional development.

Membership:
Our membership is strong at around 100 members.

Education/Events/ Forums:
VUNS continues to support nurses with x2 free education sessions for our members during the year. VUNS supports our country members by having an education meeting in different parts of Victoria. In May we are planning a meeting in Warragul.

Grants:
VUNS continues to support all members wishing to attend conferences, seminars and further study relating to urology nursing. VUNS have supported 6 nurses to attend 2017 USANZ/ANZUNS ASM.

Communication to members:
Quarterly newsletters are distributed via email to our members and also current updates notifying members of scholarships, employment opportunities and reminders for upcoming meetings.

Trade and other Sponsorship:
VUNS acknowledges the support of trade with education sessions and support of nurses education professional development needs.

We are fortunate to have some of the trade who affiliate members of VUNS.

Financial position:
VUNS continues to be financially viable and continues to support Victorian and Tasmanian nurses with their ongoing professional development.

Kath Schubach
VUNS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

QUNS

Queensland has had a very busy year again in 2016. Currently we have 214 members. Our annual education day was held in August 2016 at the Bronco’s League’s Club, with over 200 people attending.

We had a variety of Nurses attend from Urology, Uro-gynaec, Oncology, Theatres, Renal, Spinal, Discharge facilitators and Community. It is a great event to learn more and network with all of our colleagues in the public, private and community areas.

We also held 2 free education evenings and 1 free networking evening. Our members greatly appreciate these events.

We were able to offer the following grants for people to attend conferences:

• 1 grant awarded out of 5 offered to attend ANZUNS in Canberra
• 1 grant awarded out of 5 offered to attend CFA in Adelaide
• 1 grant awarded to attend QUNS day in Brisbane
• 5 grants awarded out of 5 offered to attend ANZUNS at the Gold Coast

One exciting thing we did this year was develop a Facebook page for our members where we post upcoming events and interesting articles.

This has become very popular with our members and most weeks we post a new article to keep our members up to date with the latest research around the world.

Leanne Morton
QLD STATE REPRESENTATIVE
The NUNS executive committee structure is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Watts</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jemma Archbold</td>
<td>ANZUNS rep/ secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kylie Foley</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karina So</td>
<td>Education officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Whittaker</td>
<td>Public Officer/conference coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheena Lagat</td>
<td>Newsletter editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Laarni</td>
<td>Website and membership coordinator</td>
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<td>Landrito</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karin Pearse</td>
<td>Rural rep</td>
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And we welcome Kevin Ancog onto our executive committee. The NUNS executive committee continues to meet secondly monthly.

**Strategic planning/Goals for the year:**

Over the past year NUNS has seen a decline in membership numbers the committee intend to address this by increasing visibility of the organisation and we continue to look for ways to support our members to continue their professional development and provide educational opportunities in urological nursing.

**Membership:** NUNS currently has 41 financial members.

**Education/Events/Forums:**

For the upcoming year we plan to hold to hold two education evening in April and July free for members to attend. As well as our AGM and a full day seminar in October.

**Trade**

We continue to have a good relationship with trade who are given the opportunity to sponsor our educational events.

**Communication to members:**

We communicate with members regularly via email. We also encourage our members to visit our website for ongoing updates throughout the year. We also encourage members to like our facebook page for updates.

**Newsletter:**

We release 3 newsletters a year. We are continually looking for interesting articles to publish and welcome any members’ suggestions. Our scholarship recipients are required to publish a report on a session at the ANZUNS conference for our newsletter.

**Scholarships:**

NUNS continue to financially support its members and offers 5x $1000 scholarships for Members to attend the ANZUNS conference each year. We offer 6x $250 scholarships for country delegates to attend NUNS seminars.

We encourage all members to consider applying for our scholarships as a great opportunity to broaden urological nursing knowledge and network with peers.

**Financial Position:**

We remain in a strong financial position with current total bank balance of $46863.82.

Jemma Archbold NSW ANZUNS REPRESENTATIVE

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**SAUNS**

**COMMITTEE FOR 2016/2017**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kerry Santoro</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Lange</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Clifford</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally Sara</td>
<td>State Rep – ANZUNS</td>
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**Strategic Planning/Goals for the Year /Current project**

- Review of Strategic Plan
- Review strategies to increase membership

**Membership:** There are currently 47 financial members

**Education/Events/Forums:**

There were 6 educational evenings throughout 2016:

- Surgical options for men with urinary Incontinence
- Spinal cord injury and its impact on the urinary system
- An update on renal cancer – from diagnosis to discharge and beyond
- Understanding the PI-RADS system and how they changed prostate cancer reporting
- Testicular cancer – diagnosis, treatment and beyond
- Providing treatment for patients requiring Botox in the public health care setting

SAUNS also ran a very successful study day on Saturday 6th August titled “Floods, Drips and Streams”. There were 82 registrations plus 14 trade partners and we were able to secure some much needed funding for educational opportunities for 2017 and beyond.

**Communication to members:**

Members meet bi-monthly following which minutes are circulated to all members. All other communication to members is conducted by email.
**Reporting/Newsletter:**
Members receive the quarterly ANZUNS Newsletter via email. SAUNS submits a State report to this newsletter.

**Grants:**
The following grants were offered to SAUNS members in 2016:
- **USANZ/ANZUNS ASM Gold Coast Queensland, April 2016**
  » X1 - Total value $2,700 (up to)
- **Asia-Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference, Melbourne, September 2016**
  » X1 – Total value $2,000
  » X1 – Total value $1,500
- **Continence Foundation’s National Conference on Incontinence, Adelaide, November 2016**
  » X1 – Total value $1,000 (up to)

**Sponsorship**
SAUNS received educational grants from a number of trade partners this year. These grants were used to sponsor members’ attendance at the USANZ/ANZUNS ASM in April 2016, the Asia-Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference in September 2016, the Continence Foundation’s National Conference on Incontinence in November 2016 and the SA/NT Section Meeting in October 2016.

We were also fortunate to receive trade partner support to run our Study Day in August 2016.

Sally Sara SAUNS REPRESENTATIVE

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**SUNWA**

The Society of Urological Nurses Western Australia has been established with the aim of promoting a communication network for those nurses and health professionals with a special interest in urology. Our committee includes 7 participants that contribute their time and energy each month. Thank you to everyone involved.

**Membership:**
Numbers this year are: 65 members- include 2 rural and 3 life members’. A slight increase from 61 members last year and currently underway with a membership drives which looks promising.

**Education/Events/ Forums:**
Our main focus of SUNWA continues to be education. Education evenings held throughout the year cover a broad range of topics generally derived from feedback from our members. Our events attract majority of our members, colleagues of community - eg. GP and students.

Of course, these nights wouldn’t be possible unless the devoted Urologists, Specialist Nurses, Sexual Health Physicians all contributed their free time to our education events. We keep members up to date on local forums and webinars when applicable.

Our relationship with USANZ WA is welcomed, allowing our members to attend - planned later in year.

**Grants:**
SUNWA has been fortunate to offer two financial grants to members to facilitate attendance at the USANZ WA State Section meeting and also offered two grants to assist members in attending ANZUNS conference this year. SUNWA is also fortunate to be able to offer two awards for which our members can apply for scholarships:
- The ABBVIE Award offers a financial grant to assist a SUNWA member to attend a Urological Conference of their choosing.
- The BARD Best Paper award is offered to the successful applicant on the submission of a case study or work practice.

**Communication to members:**
Email is utilized to communicate with members. SUNWA produces 4 electronic newsletters per year and encourages members to contribute with articles or case studies. SUNWA also encourages members to share up and coming events which may be of interest to the wider community. SUNWA will be looking to organise video recording of speakers or a link in via video conference for our rural members.

**Trade and other Sponsorship:**
SUNWA continues to be well supported by trade at the education events and also by the healthcare facilities in providing venues and IT support. Trade support for 2 evenings includes 1-2 trades that relate to topics of event. AGM/ education night - 6-10 Trades.

**Financial position:**
Our financial position is reasonably comfortable.

Jane Neve SUNWA REPRESENTATIVE
How privileged I am to be writing this report as the chairperson of such an exceptional group of dedicated urology nurses. We have welcomed two new committee member this year, Sha Harber from Timaru and Trudy Dugmore from Auckland. We also fare welled Jeanette Townend from our committee who having joined the executive in 2002 has earned her retirement from committee work. She has held various position within the executive including chairperson, which saw her also join ANZUNS as a committee member.

Over more recent years she has been the editor of our very popular NZUNS urology nurses newsletter, all of this whilst working full time as the Charge Nurse of the urology ward at Palmerston North hospital.

Jeanette is one of the most dedicated urology nurses I have had the privilege to work with and NZUNS have recognized her valuable contribution to urology nursing by awarding her a life membership of our society.

Membership: 115

Once again we have decided, due to our sound financial position, not to increase our $50.00 annual membership subscription for the 2017 financial year.

We strongly believe that our subscription fee must be affordable to our members as we recognise the majority work within the public sector with little, if any, ongoing support for CME.

Memorandum of Understanding signing:

This year marked two important events in the history of NZUNS, the first being the signing of our Memorandum of Understanding with the New Zealand Section of the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ-NZS) which sees us run our combined conference in a true multidisciplinary way. It has been agreed that we will share the profit or the loss of this combined conference in a NZUNS 40%, USANZ-NZS 60% split.

The second was a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand (PCFNZ). This document gives us the basis for developing a closer working relationship where we are able to nominate members to their clinical council, attend their conferences and vice versa as well as the offer to support educational opportunities for nurses.

Strategic Plan and Committee Manual 2016-2019:

We have updated our Committee Manual and Strategic Plan which gives direction for our society over the next three years. One of our new objectives is to identify and develop affiliations and relationships with other urological stakeholders.

NZUNS Affiliations:

We remain active participants in the Ministry of Health Prostate Cancer Working Group with representatives in both Specialty and Primary Health subgroups. This group have now produced National Referral Guidelines and is working towards guidelines in the Management of Prostate Cancer. We thank Trish White and Lucy Keedle for the time and work that they continue to give to this important ministerial project.

We have made a submission on the New Zealand Continence Societies “Urinary Incontinence in Women’s Guidelines” and have a committee member, Lucy Keedle who is also a committee member of the NZ Continence Society.

PHARMAC is the New Zealand Government Agency that decides which pharmaceuticals will be publicly funded. They have awarded sole supply status and hospital supply status to AstraZeneca’s brand of GnRH analogue, Zoladex, for the treatment of prostate cancer.

NZUNS made a submission, along with many other urological units, in opposition to this proposal based on a wide range of clinical and socio-economic reasons as well as patient wellbeing and stress associated with this change of treatment.

We also had concerns that many medical centres (General Practice) were not familiar with this particular therapy nor had the staff trained and able to administer the injection.

These concerns have proven to be correct and Pharmac have done little in education both professionally or for the prostate cancer patient who has been effect by this change.
We also outlined the important role that pharmaceutical companies have in education but sadly this all went unheeded.

This decision has had far reaching ramifications in the ongoing research and educational opportunities for urology as a whole with Abbvie and Tolmar (previously Hospira) already no longer offering conference sponsorship or ongoing urology educational opportunities.

This will have a huge impact on all facets of urology in the future and already we have had the funding of NZUNS newsletter withdrawn by Abbvie.

We are hugely indebted though to all the medical and pharmaceuticals companies who have continued to support NZUNS in 2016 be it through our conference, newsletter distribution, educational sessions, breakfast and lunches.

**Portfolio Updates:**

**Education**  
NZUNS Conference  
19th – 21st October 2016

Dunedin  
A very successful conference was held in Dunedin and we were once again honoured to have Maryanne Sinon join us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Allison Lang, our conference convenor, for all the hard work she has put into making this conference such a success.

As mentioned our conferences are now formally combined with USANZ-NZ Section with the full program of both societies open to all delegates as well as the opportunity for nurses who have an interest in uro-oncology area to join the Genito-Urinary Special Interest Group on the Wednesday preceding the main conference, all at no additional registration fee.

One of the highlights of our conference is always the Free Paper Nursing Presentations.

This year’s winners were:

**Best Paper sponsored by Obex Medical ($2,000.00)**  
Trish White “What is the Urological Nursing Input into ADT”

**Best New Presenter sponsored by NZUNS ($1,500.00)**  
Lesley Dill – Russell “The long term Management of Prostate Cancer in Northland”

We increased the value of our study grants to $1,000.00 each, of which we have two per year, to reflect the increased costs of attending conference such as ANZUNS in Australia. We also expanded the criteria for our $2,500.00 Maggie Burns Scholarship to include not only post-graduate study but also attendance to a recognised course that involves advanced nursing practice and expanded scope of practice roles, such as urodynamic and flexible cystoscopy training courses.

**Publication**  
Our NZUNS newsletter filled with educational updates and opportunities, along with our society news and articles of interest, continues to be eagerly awaited by our members and at their request remains a hard copy newsletter – great to share with colleagues.

**Recruitment**  
In recognition of the wonderful work that urology nurses do, and in keeping with our educational focus, NZUNS celebrated International Nurses Day on 12th May by giving away $500.00 to one lucky member to attend a urology conference. That lucky recipient, Fern Washington of Balclutha, has chosen the ANZUNS 2017 Conference in Canberra.

**Research**  
Our Research Grant Scholarship is on hold at present as the sponsoring company that was supporting this initiative is also going through a change in company structure. We are hopeful though that this will be up and running in 2017 and as part of our 2016-2019 Strategic Plan we are also considering the development of a NZUNS Researcher Award.
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE YOU TO OUR:

UROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND - NEW ZEALAND SECTION
NEW ZEALAND UROLOGICAL NURSES SOCIETY INC
Conference 2017

WEDNESDAY 11 TO FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2017 - TRINITY WHARF HOTEL, TAURANGA

Tauranga is a harbour side city in the North Island of New Zealand well known for its blue skies, warm climate, sparking harbour and relaxed life style. It’s close proximity to, White Island, New Zealand’s most active volcano just a boat or helicopter ride away, and Rotorua, our thermal wonderland, makes it a great holiday destination. We look forward to seeing you there.

Future Project:

Development of Standards of Practice and Clinical Training Programme for New Zealand Urological Nurses:

The face of urology continues to change rapidly and in an attempt to meet the increased complexities of our patient populations health needs, often with limited clinical resources, nurses with appropriate training and experience are in a prime position to make a difference and enhance health care delivery.

With the ongoing development of nurse-led clinics we are finding that nurses working in these clinics have a variety of qualifications/experience ranging from excellent to not very extensive at all. Due also to the burgeoning work load in urology clinics, wards and theatres there is also pressure being applied to nurses to undertake an increasing number of roles they themselves feel inadequately trained to perform.

It is NZUNS’s aim to have nurses that are well trained to undertake their role and most importantly to ensure patient’s safety is maintained.

Our goal is to look at developing future frameworks, which will include appropriate education, to guide nurses who practice in urology, with our first being: Urology Nursing Scope of Practice Outpatient Clinics. We are pleased to have support from our Urologist colleagues from USANZ-NZSection, as acceptance of evolving roles amongst the public, employers, nurses and our multidisciplinary partners in urology is critical.

We are really excited to be part of the new working party with representatives from both our societies working towards the development of these urological nursing roles which are consistent and appropriately prepared across New Zealand.

Further to this an objective within our 2016-2019 Strategic Plan is the development of our own National Guidelines for nurse-led urodynamic and flexible cystoscopy clinics.

This would include investigating the feasibility of running New Zealand based training workshops.

This report would not be complete without a huge thank you to the dynamic and dedicated team of urology nurses on our committees, both NZUNS and ANZUNS, who give their time and expertise willingly to ensure that we do the very best we can for our members.

It has been my privilege to work alongside this exceptional group of dedicated urology nurses in this past year.

Kind regards,

Andrea Nixon
NZUNS CHAIRPERSON 2017

cont’d
Expression of Interest:

“Prostate Cancer & Urological Nursing Fellowship 2018”

About the Fellowship

With accreditation from La Trobe University, the Urological & Prostate Cancer Nursing Fellowship will:

• Offer opportunities for the development of urological, prostate cancer & men’s health nursing expertise in a clinically diverse outpatient setting
• Assist further development of urological and men’s health expertise of existing Prostate cancer specialist nurses
• Provide urological, prostate cancer & men’s health nursing clinical development for nurses interested in careers in this pathway
• Offer nursing and clinical research opportunities
• Provide supervised learning & professional development opportunities for the nursing fellow in a multi-disciplinary setting including urology, medical & radiation oncology, psychology, exercise physiology and existing urology & prostate cancer specialist nurses

About the Centre

The APCR Prostate Cancer Centre (PCC) has been established to address the lack of available specialist urological and general health services for men in Victoria. Offering a range of public, bulk-billed, clinical services PCC is affiliated with The Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) and Melbourne University.

The Fellowship program is accredited through La Trobe University, School of Nursing & Midwifery with the 6-month fellowship placement contributing the equivalent of one 15-credit point subject in the postgraduate Master of Nursing (Urology & Continence) degree.

The PCC has recognised the need to support nursing professional development in this important area of urology, prostate cancer and associated men’s health and is now delighted to be able to offer a 6 month, fully funded Urological & Prostate Cancer Nursing Fellowship.

Interested?

Email david.gray@apcr.org.au for an application form or call (03) 8373 7600 to find out more.

Important dates

• Applications open 1st August 2017
• Applications close 13th September 2017
• Interviews week of 18th September 2017
• Successful applicants notified week of 25th September 2017

Proudly supported by
The Australian and New Zealand Urological Nursing Society (ANZUNS) is a member of The Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO), a diverse group of national nursing and midwifery organisations who meet biannually, with support from the Department of Health.

CoNNMO’s vision is to be ‘an authoritative alliance’ that promotes recognition of nursing within the Australian community, provides leadership at a national level on health and public policy, provides a forum for member organisations to discuss and consult on professional matters, and assists member organisations in terms of governance and capacity.

The first CoNNMO meeting for 2016 was held in Melbourne on Friday 27th May.

Presentations included:
• Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia update
• Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council update
• Professor Sanchia Aranda – CEO Cancer Council Australia
• Sue Ellen-Kovack – Remote Area Nurse and Delegate for the Australian Red Cross in Sierra Leone

The second CoNNMO meeting for 2016 was held in Sydney on Friday 7th October.

Presentations included:
• Department of Health Update
• Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer update
• Australian Nursing and Midwifery Board Australia update
• Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council update
• ANSWER 4 National Nursing and Midwifery study ‘Examination of the Structure of Australian Nursing – Advanced Practice Nursing’
• Medicare Benefits Schedule Review update – MBS Review Taskforce
• NMBA Midwife Standards for Practice Project Overview

The first CoNNMO meeting for 2017 will be held in Melbourne on Friday 12th May.

Sally Sara
(ANZUNS CONNMO REPRESENTATIVE)

Kidney Health Australia are proud to announce the publication of their new kidney cancer resources: ‘My Kidney Cancer, My Health’ handbook and kidney cancer factsheets. The new resources have been written with the guidance of the Kidney Health Australia Kidney Cancer advisory board whose members include doctors, nurses, and patient advocates.

My Kidney Cancer, My Health is designed for people diagnosed with advanced kidney cancer and their carers. The handbook focuses on helping patients understand advanced kidney cancer and its treatments. It also provides information about how they can take control – how to look after themselves physically and emotionally. The support chapter gives information on how other people in their lives can help, and visa versa.

My Kidney Cancer, My Health also lists many useful resources that can help navigate the journey with advanced kidney cancer.

The kidney cancer factsheets have been extensively updated and are written in clear and easy to understand language. There are 7 factsheets covering a whole range of topics.

The factsheets are:
• Kidney Cancer
• Diagnosis and Types of Kidney Cancer
• Localised Kidney Cancer
• Advanced Kidney Cancer
• Support for Kidney Cancer
• Advanced Kidney Cancer - Dealing with the side effects of medication: targeted therapy
• Kidney Cancer – Make the most of your visit to the doctor


Alternatively, contact our Kidney Health Information Service on 1800 454 363 to order a free copy of My Kidney Cancer, My Health or a Kidney Cancer Support & Information pack which contains all the factsheets and other useful information. Patients and carers can also ask any questions they may have about kidney cancer.
Uscan outperforms traditional bladder scanners on accuracy. Period.

Uscan, a breakthrough in bladder care, belongs in a class of its own. It acquires up to 256 slices of the bladder and applies algorithms from the science of computer vision to actively recognise the 3D contours of the bladder. The result is an unprecedented accuracy of ±10% or ±10 mL (whichever is larger), far superior to current industry standard of ±15% or ±15 mL.*

*Our results were based on measuring bladder phantoms in a range of known volumes from 32 mL to 713 mL.

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SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATIONS FOR 2018 TO FOLLOW

Boston Scientific Nursing Professional Development Diamond Award

This Award is for Registered nurses who are working in the field of urological nursing who can demonstrate how a significant professional development award can be utilized to improve the outcomes of their patient group.

This Award offers registered nurses the opportunity to spend time in a major urological department to refine their nursing practice in urology care. The Award can also include attendance at a major urological conference in addition to a urological department site visit. This can be either in Australia, New Zealand or can include travel to an international center.

This award includes:

$5000 Diamond Award payable to the recipient.

Additional funding to be retained by ANZUNS to cover the costs of recipient attending the ANZUNS ASM to present a paper detailing how the award was utilized.

Congratulations to Sandra Warden – 2017 winner!

Abbvie Nursing Professional Development Emerald Awards

This Award is for TWO single applications for Registered nurses who are working in the field of urological nursing who can demonstrate how a significant professional development award can be utilized to improve the outcomes of their patient group.

This Award offers registered nurses the opportunity to refine their nursing practice in urology care. The Award can include attendance at a major urological conference or a urological department site visit. This can be either in Australia, New Zealand or can include travel to an international center.

This award includes:

$2500 Emerald Award (X 2) payable to the recipients.

It will be desirable for the recipient to attend the ANZUNS ASM to present a paper detailing how the award was utilized.

Congratulations to Judy Kelly & Sharon Harber – 2017 winners!

ANZUNS Professional Development Awards

This award is for FIVE single applications for Registered Nurses working in the field of urological nursing, who can demonstrate how a significant professional development award can be utilized to improve the outcomes of their patient group.

This award offers FIVE Registered Nurses the opportunity to attend the 2018 USANZ/ANZUNS ASM in Canberra in February 2018.

This award includes:

$1000 award (x 5) payable to each recipient

ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting - JULY 2017

The Art & Science of Best Practice
16-18 JULY 2017
PULLMAN ALBERT PARK
MELBOURNE

CLICK HERE
EMERALD AWARD
Michelle Roberts

Please provide a brief description of the professional development activity completed
Attendance of the 17th Asia-Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference 2016 in Melbourne, Australia (including registration, flights & accommodation)

Outcomes and Benefits
As the Urology CNC of the Mater Private Hospital, it is important for me to keep up to date with the latest evidence based practice in all areas of urology, including prostate cancer. My hospital has recently installed a da vinci robot, and we have started doing robotic prostatectomies for prostate cancer. Attending this conference has increased my knowledge of new & innovative practices in the treatment of prostate cancer. Of particular interest was the discussion on key publications over the last 12 months - some very new & exciting research.

I also really enjoyed the sexual function workshop that I attended - this is not something I know a lot about, so was of great benefit to me.

Dissemination
The knowledge I have gained from attending this conference has helped with my education of patients preoperatively before their robotic prostatectomies. It has assisted me to be able to answer more questions that the patients have, and has helped me to feel more confident that what I currently do is still best practice.

I have also had the opportunity to educate ward staff in the post op care of robotic prostatectomies, which is very important to improve patient outcomes.

Recommendations and outcomes
I am very grateful to ANZUNS for the opportunity to attend this conference. There is a great deal of research being done in the area of prostate cancer, and I realize there is so much I don’t know!

As a result, I have now enrolled in the PCFA prostate cancer nursing course to commence Feb 2017, which I hope will further increase my knowledge on all things prostate.

EMERALD AWARD
Rachel Oxford

Please provide a brief description of the professional development activity completed
I used the Emerald Award funds to attend the 17th Asia Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference in Melbourne. The meeting was held 31 August to 2 September.

Outcomes and Benefits
The APCC was once again the ‘go to’ source for the most up to date research, trends and practice in the care of men diagnosed with prostate cancer.

This meeting provided many opportunities to update my knowledge and impact my practice. Of particular value were the sexual function workshops and Dr Deborah McLeod’s sessions on ‘Sex talk and cancer: Who is asking’ and ‘Specific suggestions for couples affected by ED’. ‘Let’s talk about gay sex : gay and bisexual men’s experience of prostate cancer’ was particularly insightful and informative. These subjects and the insights provided me with invaluable information; the information shapes my interactions with patients and allows me to give more meaningful and accurate education as well as listen more to patients as they express their needs and concerns.

Dr Stacey Loeb’s review of the year’s publications is always an excellent rundown on the research progress across the world which enables me to give up to the minute information to both staff and patients.

As well as updating my knowledge and practice, I was able to connect and reconnect with colleagues from around Australia during the meeting. These interactions were invaluable as we ‘compared notes’ and exchanged information and support.

Dissemination
I have shared the information gained at the APCC most commonly with patients. Staffs on the ward, my fellow prostate cancer support nursing team and other areas throughout the hospital have all been recipients of updates and education.
Please provide a brief description of the professional development activity completed

I completed an 8 day visit to the UK to explore the models of care for nurse led prostate cancer clinics.

Four sites were visited in total:
- The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
  (Urology Unit – Fulham Road Chelsea)
- Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust
  (Guy’s Urology Centre – Great Maze Pond London)
- Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester
  (Urology - Stott Lane, Salford, Manchester)
- The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester
  (Wilmslow Road, Manchester)

Outcomes and Benefits

My objectives pre-trip were to visit these four sites in the UK and observe how they are leading the way in developing and refining prostate cancer nurse led clinics for men at all stages in the continuum of care. I was hoping to sit in with the nurses running these clinics and network with the health care professionals who have been instrumental in establishing and maintaining these services. I was keen to explore the scope of practice of the nurses involved in these clinics and explore some of the strategies that have been implemented, including improving quality and continuity of care, and reducing outpatient waiting times.

At all four sites, I was fortunate enough to be able to sit in and observe nurse led prostate cancer clinics. In addition, I was able to visit other hospital and clinic areas relating to Uro- oncology and observe other advanced practice nursing roles. At the completion of the trip I was pleased to have been able to meet my objectives.

At the Royal Marsden I observed a nurse led prostate diagnostic clinic and post treatment follow up clinic. I also observed their Rapid Diagnostic and Assessment Centre (RDAC) and their multi-disciplinary survivorship clinic for post prostate cancer treatment patients, which deals with incontinence, sexual dysfunction, fatigue, diet, exercise. As part of the survivorship clinic, I was able to spend time observing the work of an andrology physician who was trialling a new intra-cavernosal medication. At the Royal Marsden there are advanced nurse practitioners working in both the outpatient and inpatient areas and, in many situations, appeared to be doing the work that junior medical officers would do in Australia. For example, the advanced nurse practitioner / Uro- oncology Nurse Consultant who hosted my visit is able to perform flexible cystoscopies and TRUS prostate biopsies. She is trained to use ultrasound, has prescribing rights for medications, can order pathology and imaging and can bill for seeing private patients within her practice. She is also undertaking a PhD, an amazing and highly skilled practitioner who clearly has the support of the medical team and is complemented by a very experienced nursing team.

At Guy’s Urology Centre, I was hosted by the Lead Clinical Nurse Specialist / Advanced Nurse Practitioner. She kindly allowed me to observe her nurse led Advanced Prostate Cancer (hormone manipulation) clinic and the men who attended were very welcoming and seemed quite amazed that a nurse had come all the way to Australia to observe the treatment they were getting. On day two I sat in on the nurse led Active Surveillance clinic followed by the nurse led localised prostate cancer follow up clinic. Clinical Nurse Specialists at Guy’s have completed both the independent medication prescribers’ course and the imaging prescribers’ courses. There are advanced nurse practitioners for metastatic prostate cancer, localised prostate cancer, and benign prostate conditions, as well as for other Uro- oncology work such as bladder, kidney and testicular cancer. In addition, there is a specialist andrology nurse. Nurse led prostate cancer clinics include Localised Prostate Cancer Follow up (4 clinics per week), Advanced Prostate Cancer Follow up (3 per week), Active Surveillance (1 per week) and Radiotherapy clinic (1 per week). A range of prostate cancer seminars are run in-house, on a regular basis, including: Brachytherapy Seminars, Preparation for Radiotherapy, Active Surveillance, ‘Healthy Hormones’ ADT Seminars, Post Treatment Seminars and Erectile Dysfunction and Continence post-surgery seminars.
At the Salford Royal in Manchester I observed urology nurse practitioners working in the Urology team and heard about their recently piloted nurse led community clinics for prostate cancer follow up. I also spent some time observing some advanced nurse practitioner roles involved in other uro-oncology work and their enhanced recovery program. Salford Royal run a new ‘one stop’ process that aims at minimising the number of hospital visits required for assessment, diagnosis and treatment of urological conditions. I was interested to observe Salford Royal’s outpatient waiting list system as they have the shortest urology waiting period for outpatients in the NHS. Salford Royal Urology has both the President of BAUS and the President of BAUNS working in their unit which is quite an achievement. I also spent time with the Salford Royal Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) Specialist Nurse for Urology and Gynaecology and observed the Urology Enhanced Recovery Programme Care Pathway in action.

On my final day in Manchester I was fortunate to make a quick visit to The Christie, the largest single site cancer centre in Europe. Like the Salford Royal, The Christie has set up community based prostate cancer clinics, run by a nurse specialist using community-based follow up pathways, with a focus on self-management and survivorship care. This has freed up 800 urology outpatient appointments which is having a significant flow on effect to their waiting times. I was fortunate to be given a tour of The Christie and observed the work of advanced nurse practitioners in both outpatient and inpatient settings, many of whom, as with the other sites, appeared to be doing the type of work done by junior medical officers in Australia. I also spent some time with the Clinical Oncology and the Radiation Oncology teams and had detailed discussion about their advanced practice roles. As with the other sites, advanced practice nurses at The Christie complete the relevant courses to have medication prescribing rights and can order pathology and imaging. On leaving the Christie I came across a wonderful centre called ‘Maggie’s Manchester’; a beautiful purpose built building staffed with trained personnel who provide assistance with living with cancer and practical and emotional support. Patients and families can drop at any time and can access appointments with cancer support specialists, nutritionists, clinical psychologists, benefits advisor and bereavement counsellors.

In summary, it was a wonderful 8 days and the networking opportunities were enormous. I was overwhelmed by the warm welcome I received at all sites and so impressed by the advanced practice nurses’ highly developed skills and knowledge. Clearly the UK has highly developed models of care for nurse led clinics and advanced nursing roles and I was struck by everyone’s willingness to share their knowledge. It was an extremely worthwhile trip and I am very grateful to both Boston Scientific and to ANZUNS for providing me with such a wonderful opportunity.

**Dissemination**

Describe how the information you gained from the activity has been disseminated:

- I am presenting at the ANZUNS ASM in February 2017.
- I am presenting at the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network - Cancer Services Journal Club in April 2017.
- I have discussed the outcomes of my trip with my colleagues at local level, and I have informally discussed the outcomes of my study tour with the PCFA Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurses group via teleconference in late 2016.

**Recommendations and outcomes**

State any relevant recommendations or outcomes from completion of the activity:

We are in the process of reviewing our current Prostate Cancer Nurse led clinic at Repatriation General Hospital with a view of expanding the role in the future.

We also aim to examine the potential for a Prostate Cancer Nurse Practitioner role within our network to further expand the prostate cancer nurse role within an appropriate scope of practice and utilizing an advanced nurse led clinic framework.
DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS THAT’S HOW WE ROLE!

I feel very privileged to be speaking at the iconic BARD education evening, in this most humble of venues The Australian War Memorial.

The journey of nursing in Australia has come a long way and I would like to share some of that journey with you this evening albeit a very brief summary of events.

In 19th century Australia, nursing was an unregulated occupation undertaken by men and women with a perception that nursing was undertaken by persons of ill repute, unqualified for caring for the sick. By the turn of the century and reflecting a worldwide trend a transition in nursing’s gender base had occurred – nursing was a feminised occupation. A movement of hospital trained nurses determined that voluntary, professional self-regulation was the mechanism to differentiate themselves from untrained persons.

Ethel Fenwick an English Nurse and suffragist founded the British Nurses Association in 1887. She also established the international council of Nurses in 1899. The first Australasian Trained Nurses Association was founded in NSW in 1899. It aspired to organise nursing, improving nursing standards and education, throughout Australia and the Pacific, with branches soon forming through out all Australia’s states. Typically, the women involved devoted their whole lives and energies to advancing the idea of nursing as a profession.

In 1920 the Nurses Registration Act came into force and in 1924 the Australian Nursing Federation was formed. ……the ANF went into recess from 1939 – 1943 due to the outbreak of WW2. For the next 60 years the ANF maintained the status quo. Many other organisations were formed in this time including the Royal Australian College of Nursing. In 2010 the ANF underwent a name change to the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation and today continues as a professional and industrial organisation representing a significant number of Australian Nurses.

In the first half of the 20th century nurses prominent in professionalising nursing also served time in the military. 3,500 Australian Nurses (1/4 of the nursing population of Australia) served time in World War 1. The events of World War 2 led to the deaths of 75 Australian nurses in service, some in horrific circumstances. This week marks the 75th Anniversary of the Banka Island massacre in which 22 of those nurses were marched into the sea at Radji Beach Indonesia, lined up and shot by Japanese troops. Vivian Statham (nee Bullwinkel) was the lone survivor, by feigning death despite being wounded. She hid for 12 days and then gave herself up.

She was held in a POW camp for the next 3½ years suffering further brutal treatment until her release at the end of the war. On her retirement from the army in 1947 she became Director or Nursing at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital. She also gave evidence of the massacre at a war crimes trial in Tokyo.

The events of World War 2 led to the deaths of 75 Australian nurses in service

Vivian devoted herself to the nursing profession and honouring those killed in the Bangka Island massacre, raising funds for a nurse’s memorial and serving on numerous committees including a period as member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, and later president of the Australian College of Nursing. The sacrifices of Vivian and dedicated nurses like her provided a specific focus for developments in nursing education, from which we continue to benefit today.

Post graduate courses became part of the norm and from the early 1970’s men gained approval to train in nursing, bringing to an end its almost total feminisation.

By mid the mid 70’s specialist fields of nursing and opportunities for training began to expand and have continued to grow, most often driven by that volunteer brigade of dedicated professional nurses.

We have moved from crude field hospitals to state of the art facilities. From camel’s back to aeroplanes, with nursing service now a part of most workforce disciplines. In 1951 married women joined the nursing workforce. In 1984 hospital training became university training. The possibility for challenging assumptions, providing mentorship and inspiring students and colleagues continues.

The courage of conviction and vision of individuals, such as Alice Morell, who in 1968 spearheaded a meeting for those interested, and dedicated to improving education for allied health professionals caring for patients with urological problems, sparked an interest in urologic nursing education across America, leading to many educational and organizational activities. (SUNA history, 2015) The first scientific meeting for urological nurses in America was held in 1970. Some 20 years later in the early 1990’s the British Association of Urologic Nurses (BAUN), Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Association (ANZUNS), and the Urologic Nurses of Canada held their first national scientific meetings. The European Association of Urologic Nurses (EAUN) had their first meeting in the late 1990’s and now has a membership of over 2500 nurses, many of whom reside outside Europe. The European Association of Urology and EAUN guidelines are excellent evidence based resource from which we could all benchmark urological patient care.

| **The events of World War 2 led to the deaths of 75 Australian nurses in service** |

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There is a growing trend for the formation of international craft group organisations; however, the realism of this vision for nurses is often limited by financial constraints, language barriers, institutional constraints and the variation of training opportunities between countries. Many countries are then governed by membership numbers and the support within that membership to grow the organisation. The overwhelming proportion of work done by our interest groups is carried out at the ‘edge’ of people’s day jobs and relies on the passion of individuals and the good will of their employers, managers and colleagues…. but enthusiasm, dedication and vision prevail among nurses!

In 2008 the Global Alliance of Urology Nurses (GAUN) was established, to provide a structured organization to represent the cultural diversity of urological nursing internationally. GAUN sought to foster a global urology nursing alliance to promote excellence, share knowledge, and set standards of quality urological nursing and patient education. GAUN’s objectives included, but were not exclusive too, providing a united voice of urology nursing to the world, and seek methods to raise global awareness on the positive role that urological nurses provide to society, and to create, utilize and strengthen links between organizations and nurses across the world to enhance holistic and evidence based urological nursing theory and practice. This initiative was a wonderful ideal! Unfortunately GAUN’s website appears to be deactivated. One can only do so much as a voluntary organisation.

While modern technology connects international bodies of urological nurse associations from Finland to Hong Kong, Ireland to America with many more in between, and provides access to the many resources developed by these groups, the opportunity for face to face contact is often limited by the tyranny of distance and the costs involved.

In 2015 the Society of international Urology extended to engaging urology nurses globally in partnership of care, particularly those in developing countries where Urology Nurses often work in isolation and do not have the benefit of access to a craft specific national professional body. The SIU provides a platform for promoting the highest standards of Urological care to Urologists and Nurses from all parts of the world despite differences in material conditions, professional concerns and political views. The SIU holds an annual one day Nurses Symposium at their annual scientific meeting, held in a different country each year, thus embracing nurses globally.

Urology nurses are in a unique position to not only provide, but lead, the partnership of care with their surgeon in delivery of patient centred care, particularly in the areas of patient education and disease surveillance. The extension of this partnership is a commitment held by many nurses, to share their knowledge with their peers for better health outcomes for their patients and families.

In Australia by the early 90’s most states of Australia and NZ had developed their own Urological Nurses Societies. NSW lead the field with Victoria a close second in 1993 and the other states followed.
These groups were and still are very active within their states.

In 1994 Dr Bob Wines a NSW Urologist suggested the inclusion of a nurses meeting program would be innovative for the meeting he was convening in Canberra in 1996. Funding was null and void! With terrific support from VUNS, a representative from each state and NZ was seconded to disseminate information, and heavy reliance on support from our employers and Gail Fuller’s then husband Barry McIlwain who ran a printing company, hence our first log and stationary, the first ANZUNS meeting came to fruition ..........87 nurses attended that meeting in Canberra, concluding with the BARD Party at Bobby McGee’s. … A tradition had begun!

The question do we meet again was carried unanimously a sure sign that interest and need for a national professional body was present. An interim committee with a co-ordinator was formed. ANZUNS began with a purpose as a coordinating body to disseminate information, promote research and promote the highest quality of urological nursing care throughout Australia and NZ.

Our first formal agreement for an affiliated meeting with USANZ was made in 1997. In 1999 the meeting programs were incorporated to one publication and our Education awards came to fruition.

ANZUNS has matured enormously in what seems a very short time, including incorporation, a name change from the Australasian Urological Nurses Society to the Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society, modernisation of our logo and in 2004 the separation of the roles of President and Convenor. Uniquely, membership of your state society provides automatic membership of ANZUNS, although subscriptions have not kept up with inflation, increasing the challenges for running a professional body.

Many people have made significant contribution to ANZUNS some taking on significant workload in a primarily voluntary organisation. Special interest groups, Website development, Urological nursing care guidelines, and strategic planning have all evolved thanks to the dedication of our committee members. Every executive member over the years has worked tirelessly with a focused commitment to Urology Nursing. Many ANZUNS members including some here this evening have presented both nationally and internationally fulfilling the vision for Australian and New Zealand Urology Nurses to become firmly established and recognised professionals in Urological Care globally.

The commitment of the Medical Industry to support nursing education has also evolved significantly, with ongoing provision of Education awards, access to educational material and education events, and for this I thank them on behalf of all ANZUNS members.

“I have never regretted that I took the notion into my head to take on nursing, for it has opened up opportunities that I would never have had”

Sr Jessie Tomlins

Fundamentally nurses support, and are supported by their national professional bodies. However, it is crucial that we can embrace global resources and partnerships to demonstrate that we are achieving outcomes that matter to our patients, and that there is evidence, that the discretionary energy and time of our network teams is leading to better health, and improved experience of care.

In the words of Sr Jessie Tomlins whose biography lies here at the Australian War Memorial

“I have never regretted that I took the notion into my head to take on nursing, for it has opened up opportunities that I would never have had”

To the nurses who have served this country and led the way for the nurses of today – to all members of ANZUNS and your ongoing commitment to Urological education and patient care, I salute you.

Kay Talbot
ANZUNS MISSION STATEMENT:
ANZUNS is the peak professional organisation for urology nursing in Australia and New Zealand.

ANZUNS OBJECTIVES ARE:

Education
To create the opportunity for Urology Nurses to undertake research based practice through education

Expertise
To provide expertise through the provision of guidelines, standards of practice and special interest groups

Leadership
To provide leadership to facilitate collaboration amongst urology health professionals

OUR SOCIETIES
New South Wales • New Zealand • Queensland • South Australia • Tasmania • Victoria • Western Australia

ANZUNS LINKS
Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand – USANZ – www.usanz.org.au
British Association of Urological Nurses – BAUN – www.baun.co.uk
European Association of Urology Nurses – EAUN – www.eaun.uroweb.org
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates – SUNA – www.suna.org
Cancer Australia – www.canceraustralia.gov.au

USANZ 2018
24-27 February 2018
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre